



said hand loop and said article loop being closed when said hand loop is

in said locked position, said hand loop and said article loop being open when said hand loop is in said opened position.

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3.

(AMENDED) The handle device of Claim 1, wherein when said locking means is in said ^{opened} ~~open~~ position, article loop handles may be placed through an opening between said first end and said second end of said member, and further into the article loop.

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

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(AMENDED) The handle device of Claim 1, wherein when said locking means is in said locked position, said hand loop ^{is} ~~fully~~ circumscribed.

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5.

(AMENDED) A device to carry several bags with loop shaped handles comprising:

a semi-rigid monolithic member encompassing a first loop and a separate second loop wherein both loops may be changeably reoriented from an open position to a closed position;

said second loop adapted to receive and contain the loop shaped handles of multiple bags;

said first loop having locking means provided by an integral locking boss on one side of said first loop and a boss receiving recess on the opposite side of said first loop, said boss being adapted to snap into said recess to close said first loop;

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said second loop having opposed shoulder portions moveable into abutting engagement with one another concomitantly with said first loop being biased to said closed position to positively prevent the handles of the bags secured within the second loop from moving into the first loop and interfering with the locking means.

6. (AMENDED) A method for carrying several articles with straps including the steps of:

providing a handle device having an article strap section and a separate hand section;

unlocking the handle device to open the article strap section and the separate hand section;

placing the straps of the articles within the article strap section of the handle device; and

locking the handle device to enclose the handle section and the article strap section to secure the straps in the article strap section.

Please cancel Claim 2, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new Claim 7.

15 (New) The ~~handle~~ device of Claim 5, wherein said ~~handle~~ device is manufactured from a rigid plastic polymer.